Research and Evaluation IGA – Initial

Issues:

1. Can the transportation community be more proactive, communicative, and collaborative in developing, evaluating, and implementing research results?
2. How to use transportation research, data, and evaluation techniques to support and improve current and future transportation decision making.
3. Looking to the future, research needs to support a long-term (50 year) vision.
4. There is adversity to taking risks with new technology.
5. Research is currently a low priority within the transportation industry.
6. Need to leverage knowledge within the private sector; Michigan has the largest concentration of transportation professionals in the world.
7. Lack of applied research in all modes of transportation.
8. There is a lack of understanding of how the transportation system fits in with the societal needs, both currently and in the future.
9. Data not readily available latent demand by customers for real time date. Insure that data is accurate.

Goals:

1. Ensure the transportation community is proactive in research development, open to change and innovation, aggressive in implementation of research results, supportive of training and continuing professional development of personnel.
2. Make data and research findings accessible to end users in a timely manner.
3. Include innovative and long-term research in the development of Michigan's transportation vision.
4. Educate the public about the importance of research so there are a corresponding political will at all levels to support research with adequate resources.
5. Michigan should implement more technology and research using regional collaboration and coordination.
6. Emphasize definition of the problem and precisely how the research result will assist in solving it.
7. Data that is impartial, accurate, timely, understandable and accessible.

Actions:

1. Create an easily accessible centralized electronic library for the storage/retrieval of data and research findings. Develop guidelines for the timely input of appropriate data.
2. Develop a process to implement research findings.
3. Support and expand the LTAP program to assist in technology transfers across political levels and support the local effort through incentives to use the resulting technology.
4. Build partnerships between industry, governmental agencies, universities, and the private sector to identify mutual interests, needs, and to leverage resources.
5. Evaluate the balance between the allocation of funds to planning vs. research.
6. Establish formal link between theoretical research staff (academia) and applied research staff (transportation agencies).